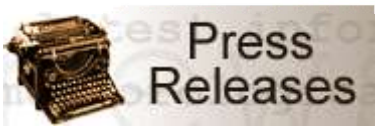

The Meteorological Office

PRESS OFFICE

The Met. Office forecasts for the Sepu Kangri Expedition

Forecasts from The Met. Office are being used to guide Sir Chris Bonington and The British Sepu Kangri Expedition Team through the mountain ranges of Eastern Tibet, on to the summit on Sepu Kangri.

The Met. Office was chosen because of its worldwide reputation for global weather forecasts, and a team of forecasters from the International Forecasting Unit (IFU), within the National Met. Centre at Bracknell, are already in daily contact with the expedition team. Advanced technology gives The Met. Office the capability to provide detailed forecasts for anywhere in the world, and the forecasters from the IFU will be providing the latest information on expected winds, temperatures and other weather conditions throughout the expedition.

The weather conditions in Tibet during the summer months are still very inhospitable , with frequent fresh snowfalls. Torrential rain has already hampered progress through Tibet, with heavy floods and landslides blocking original planned routes. When the team meets at the base camp in September, they will be hoping for better luck with the weather than last year. Cloud, wind and heavy snowfall combined to halt their progress to the summit. This year, the expedition will be receiving forecasts for up to three days ahead, and will be able to plan accordingly if unsettled weather persists.

ENDS:

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